

device to be used in the pressing process:

retrieves a cost associated with the designated material,  
costs associated with the designated pressing device and costs  
 associated with the designated manufacturing steps from the cost  
 5 information; [and]

obtains costs of molds to be used in steps included in the  
pressing process and costs of surface treatments to be applied to a  
surface of the component, and uses the obtained costs as costs  
retrieved from the cost information;

10 determines a result of estimation based on a sum of the  
retrieved costs; and

generates data representing a result of estimation of a cost  
 of the designated component based on each of the retrieved costs.

27. (New) A component cost estimation system which receives  
 15 accesses from a plurality of working bodies via a network, and  
 estimates a cost of a component, said system comprising:

a memory which stores cost information for associating a  
 material of a component to be manufactured, a cost of the material,  
 manufacturing steps to be applied to the material, and costs involved  
 20 in the manufacturing steps with one another;

a reception server which receives designation data for  
 designating the material of the component and the manufacturing  
 steps to be applied to the material from the working bodies who  
 request an estimation via said network; and

25 an estimation computer,

wherein:

the manufacturing steps include a pressing process;

the cost information includes information associating the manufacturing steps and costs of child components which are the

5 components to be used in the manufacturing steps with each other;

the cost information further includes information associating a pressing device to be used in the pressing process and a cost involved in using the pressing device with each other; and

said estimation computer:

10 receives data for designating the pressing process, a material to which the pressing process is applied, and the pressing device to be used in the pressing process;

retrieves costs associated with the material, the designated pressing device and manufacturing steps designated by the

15 designation data received by said reception server from the cost information;

obtains costs of molds to be used in steps included in the pressing process and costs of surface treatments to be applied to a surface of the component, and uses the obtained costs as costs

20 retrieved from the cost information;

determines a result of estimation based on a sum of the retrieved costs;

generates estimation result data representing a result of estimation of a cost of the component based on the retrieved costs;

25 and

sends the estimation result data to the working bodies who have requested the estimation via said network.

28. (New) A component cost estimation method for estimating a cost of a component, comprising the steps of:

- 5 storing cost information for associating a material of a component, a cost of the material, manufacturing steps of the component including a pressing process, and costs involved in the manufacturing steps; wherein the cost information includes information associating the manufacturing steps and costs of child
- 10 components which are the components to be used in the manufacturing steps with each other, and further includes information associating a pressing device to be used in the pressing process and a cost involved in using the pressing device with each other;
- receiving data for designating a material of a component to be
- 15 manufactured, and manufacturing steps to be applied to the designated material;
- receiving data for designating the pressing process, a material to which the pressing process is applied, and the pressing device to be used in the pressing process;
- 20 retrieving a cost associated with the designated material, costs associated with the designated pressing device and costs associated with the designated manufacturing steps from the cost information;
- [and]
- obtaining costs of molds to be used in steps included in the
- 25 pressing process and costs of surface treatments to be applied to a

surface of the component, and uses the obtained costs as costs  
retrieved from the cost information;

determining a result of estimation based on a sum of the  
retrieved costs; and

- 5       generating data representing a result of estimation of a cost of  
the component based on the retrieved costs.

29. (New) A component cost estimation method for receiving  
accesses from a plurality of working bodies via a network, and  
estimating a cost of a component, said method comprising the steps  
10 of:

storing cost information for associating a material of a  
component to be manufactured, a cost of the material, manufacturing  
steps including a pressing process to be applied to the material, and  
costs involved in the manufacturing steps with one another; wherein  
15 the cost information includes information associating the  
manufacturing steps and costs of child components which are the  
components to be used in the manufacturing steps with each other,  
and further includes information associating a pressing device to be  
used in the pressing process and a cost involved in using the pressing  
20 device with each other;

receiving designation data for designating the material of the  
component and the manufacturing steps to be applied to the material  
from the working bodies who request an estimation via said network;  
receiving data for designating the pressing process, a material to  
25 which the pressing process is applied, and the pressing device to be

used in the pressing process;

retrieving costs associated with the material, the designated pressing device and manufacturing steps designated by the received designation data from the cost information;

- 5     obtaining costs of molds to be used in steps included in the pressing process and costs of surface treatments to be applied to a surface of the component, and uses the obtained costs as costs retrieved from the cost information;

determines a result of estimation based on a sum of the retrieved

- 10 costs;

generating estimation result data representing a result of estimation of a cost of the component based on the retrieved costs; and

- 15     sending the estimation result data to the working bodies who have requested the estimation via said network.

30. (New) A computer-readable recording medium which stores a program for controlling a computer, which is connected to a memory for storing cost information associating a material of a component including a pressing process, a cost of the material,
- 20 manufacturing steps of the component, and costs involved in the manufacturing steps with one another; wherein the cost information includes information associating the manufacturing steps and costs of child components which are the components to be used in the
- manufacturing steps with each other, and further includes information
- 25 associating a pressing device to be used in the pressing process and a

cost involved in using the pressing device with each other, to  
perform the steps of:

receiving data for designating a material of a component to be  
manufactured, and manufacturing steps to be applied to the

5 designated material;

receiving data for designating the pressing process, a material to  
which the pressing process is applied, and the pressing device to be  
used in the pressing process;

retrieving a cost associated with the designated material, costs  
10 associated with the designated pressing device and costs associated  
with the designated manufacturing steps from the cost information;  
[and]

obtaining costs of molds to be used in steps included in the  
pressing process and costs of surface treatments to be applied to a  
15 surface of the component, and uses the obtained costs as costs  
retrieved from the cost information;

determining a result of estimation based on a sum of the  
retrieved costs; and

generating data representing a result of estimation of a cost of  
20 the component based on the retrieved costs.

31. (New) A computer-readable recording medium which stores  
a program for controlling a computer, which is connected to a  
reception server for receiving designation data for designating a  
material of a component to be manufactured and manufacturing steps  
25 including a pressing process to be applied to the material from a

plurality of working bodies who request an estimation via a network, and is also connected to a memory for storing cost information for associating a material of a component, a cost of the material, manufacturing steps of the component, and costs involved

5 in the manufacturing steps with one another; wherein the cost information includes information associating the manufacturing steps and costs of child components which are the components to be used in the manufacturing steps with each other, and further includes information associating a pressing device to be used in the pressing

10 process and a cost involved in using the pressing device with each other, to perform the steps of:

receiving designation data for designating the material of the component and the manufacturing steps to be applied to the material from the working bodies who request an estimation via said network;

15 receiving data for designating the pressing process, a material to which the pressing process is applied, and the pressing device to be used in the pressing process;

retrieving costs associated with the material, the designated pressing device and manufacturing steps designated by the received

20 designation data from the cost information;

obtaining costs of molds to be used in steps included in the pressing process and costs of surface treatments to be applied to a surface of the component, and uses the obtained costs as costs retrieved from the cost information;

25 determines a result of estimation based on a sum of the retrieved

costs;

generating estimation result data representing a result of  
estimation of a cost of the component based on the retrieved costs;  
and

- 5 sending the estimation result data to the working bodies who  
have requested the estimation via said network.